



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES



Superintendent
of Documents
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LIBRARY PROGRAMS SERVICE
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PUBLIC PRINTER NAMES FIVE TO LIBRARY COUNCIL

The Public Printer of the United States, Ralph E. Kennickell, Jr., has announced the appointment of five members to the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer: Mr. Joseph Lu, Documents Librarian, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho; Ms. F. Anne Diamond, Library Administrator, Michigan State Library, Lansing, Michigan; Mr. Erminio D'Onofrio, Head, Documents Section, New York Public Library, New York, New York; Ms. Julianne Hinz, Head, Documents Division, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Mr. David Cobb, Librarian and Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

The Depository Library Council consists of 15 members of the library community who serve for a term of 3 years. The Council Members, all appointed by the Public Printer, advise the chief executive of the U.S. Government Printing Office on matters relating to classification, distribution, cataloging, indexing, storage, availability, and utilization of depository material and general administration of the Depository Library Program.

The Depository Library Program, which has over 1,395 designated libraries located throughout the country, makes publications from the Federal Government available for the free use of the general public.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR COUNCIL CHAIR VICKI PHILLIPS

Please make a note of the following address and new phone number for Depository Library Council Chair Vicki Phillips:

Head Documents Librarian
Edmon Lowe Library
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-6546

Depository librarians may wish to communicate with Ms. Phillips at this address and phone number in advance of the Depository Library Council meeting on October 12, 13, and 14 in Rosslyn, Virginia.

LIBRARY HOTLINE

*Late breaking news from
the editors of Library Journal*

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Library Hotline, © Reed Publishing
USA)

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GPO FICHE DEPOSITORY PROGRAM IN TATTERS: U.S. government-designated depository libraries which have chosen to get their documents on microfiche, rather than paper, have failed to receive as many as 90% of the documents they are supposed to get.

The most immediate culprit is apparently the contractor which had the sole contract for fiche production. After months of nondelivery and substandard fiche, that contractor was declared in default. Instead of going away quietly, the contractor has tenaciously remained on the scene.

After the default, which left \$300,000 worth of documents undeliverable for a number of quality defects, ranging from fiche cut to the wrong size to chewing gum and other debris, GPO split up the contract into eight smaller contracts. Lo and behold, the same firm was low bidder on one contract, delivered one or two shipments, and then went again into default. Still on the scene, the firm has reportedly bid on the fat contract to remake the \$300,000 worth of inferior fiche which it had itself produced.

Another source of the ills of the fiche Depository Program is the Sales Program of SUDOC, which has been enjoying unusual success, racking up profits of \$11 million this year, while the Depository Program has languished. Don Fossedal, Superintendent of Documents, is a marketing person who cut his teeth on the likes of Procter & Gamble. He is openly scornful of the Depository Program over which he holds sway: he met one proposal to enlarge the scope of the Program with the avowal that he would not "let the tail wag the dog." His sales program has benefited from the Depository ills: many libraries have been ordering and paying for documents that they should have received free.

Brian May, documents head at Columbia, tells it from his library's point of view: The Depository Program has had problems for years in fiche delivery. Some titles never did come in, leaving gaps in the collection. Some 8-10% of Congressional Documents are thus missing for past years. Last fall, fiche delivery to Columbia stopped cold, and now, well into the 100th Congress, he has received only about 20 of its documents.

One alternative has been to switch to paper, which has been delivered apparently trouble-free while the fiche has been undergoing its tribulations. Another: Columbia has established an account at CIS (Congressional Information Service) to order documents specifically asked for by users--no substitute for proper selection,

DEPOSITORY LIBRARY USER STUDY FORMS MAILED
TO ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

Data collection instruments for the Depository Library User Study were mailed to you at the end of August 1988. If you have not received your packet of data collection instruments by September 9, kindly phone the Library Programs Service on (202) 275-1119 to request your packet.

When you have received your packet, please give careful attention to completing the forms correctly and returning them on schedule in the envelope provided. Thank you for your cooperation in this important research study.

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